

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 Claims 1 and 2 are canceled.

1 3. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 1 wherein the first edge is positioned
2 adjacent to the second edge along at least a portion of the path to form a non-
3 overlapped seam.

1 4. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 1 wherein the at least one sheet
2 includes first and second sheets with the second edge of the first sheet overlapping the
3 first edge of the second sheet and the second edge of the second sheet overlapping the
4 first edge of the first sheet.

1 5. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 1 wherein the at least one sheet
2 includes first and second sheets with the second edge of the first sheet is positioned
3 adjacent to the first edge of the second sheet and the second edge of the second sheet is
4 positioned adjacent to the first edge of the first sheet.

1 6. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 4 wherein the body has a periphery and
2 wherein the first and second sheets at least partially overlap to substantially cover the
3 periphery.

1 Claims 7-22 are canceled.

1 23. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 22 wherein each layer is bonded to at
2 least one other layer, and wherein each layer overlaps at least a portion of the at least
3 one other layer.

1 24. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 23, wherein each layer includes a
2 plurality of fibers, and wherein the fibers of each layer are oriented in substantially the
3 same direction.

1 25. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 24, wherein the plurality of layers
2 includes at least first and second sets of layers, wherein the fibers of the first set of
3 layers are orientated at between 0 and 90 degrees relative to the longitudinal axis, and
4 wherein the fibers of the second set of layers are orientated at between 90 and 180
5 degrees relative to the longitudinal axis.

1 26. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 25 wherein the first set of layers are
2 bonded to each other, wherein the second set of layers are bonded to each other, and
3 wherein one of the first set of layers is bonded to one of the second set of layers.

1 27. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 25 wherein each of the first set of
2 layers is bonded to at least one of the second set of layers, and wherein the second set
3 of layers are spaced apart from each other.

1 28. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 25 wherein the layers of the first and
2 second set of layers are bonded in a random order.

1 29. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 25 wherein the fibers of the first set of
2 layers are orientated at between 65 and 85 degrees relative to the longitudinal axis, and
3 wherein the fibers of the second set of layers are orientated at between 95 and 115
4 degrees relative to the longitudinal axis.

1 30. (canceled) The insert of claim 22, wherein the path taken by at least one
2 of the first and second side edges between the proximal edge and the distal edge is
3 selected from the group consisting of helical, sinusoidal, convoluted, jagged, curved,
4 irregular and combinations thereof.

1 31. (canceled) The insert of claim 22 wherein the layers are comprised of a
2 material selected from the group consisting of a fiber matrix composite, a metal matrix
3 composite, a carbon matrix composite, a rubber, a urethane, an elastomer and
4 combinations thereof.

1 32. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 22 wherein the plurality of layers
2 includes at least six layers.

1 33. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 22 wherein the majority of the plurality
2 of layers has substantially the same length between the proximal edge to the distal
3 edge, when measured parallel to the longitudinal axis.

1 34. (canceled) The insert of claim 22 wherein each layer has a thickness
2 between 0.003 inches and 0.015 inches.

1 35. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 22 wherein the majority of the plurality
2 of layers substantially overlap one of the other layers.

1 36. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 22 wherein the first and second edges
2 of each layer of the plurality of layers are spaced apart from the first and second edges
3 of the other layers of the plurality of layers.

1 37. (canceled) The insert of claim 22 wherein at least one of the plurality of
2 layers has its first edge at least partially overlapping its second edge to form a single-
3 layer overlapped seam.

1 38. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 22 wherein at least one of the plurality
2 of layers has its first edge positioned adjacent to its second edge to form a single layer
3 non-overlapped seam.

1 39. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a composite insert for a ball
2 bat, comprising:
3 obtaining an elongate, generally cylindrical mandrel having a periphery
4 and extending along a longitudinal axis;

5 forming at least first and second layers of composite material into a
6 predetermined shape, each layer having a proximal edge, a distal edge, and first and
7 second side edges;

8 wrapping the first layer about at least a portion of the periphery of the
9 mandrel such that the first and second edges of the first layer each extend from the
10 proximal edge to the distal edge along a path that is substantially non-parallel with the
11 longitudinal axis; and

12 wrapping the second layer about at least a portion of the first layer such
13 that the first and second edges of the second layer each extend from the proximal edge
14 to the distal edge along a path that is substantially non-parallel with the longitudinal
15 axis; and

16 removing the mandrel from the at least first and second layers.

1 40. (withdrawn) The method of manufacturing an insert of claim 39, further
2 comprising the step of adjusting the second layer so that the first and second edges of
3 the second layer do not overlap any of the first and second edges of the first layer.

1 41. (withdrawn) The method of manufacturing an insert of claim 39, further
2 comprising the step of wrapping at least one additional layer onto the second layer such
3 that the first and second edges of the additional layer each extend from the proximal
4 edge to the distal edge along a path that is substantially non-parallel with the
5 longitudinal axis.

1 42. (withdrawn) The method of manufacturing an insert of claim 39, further
2 comprising the steps of:

3 wrapping a shrinkable material about the at least first and second layers;
4 curing the insert at a predetermined temperature; and
5 removing the shrinkable material.

1 43. (withdrawn) The method of manufacturing an insert of claim 39, further
2 comprising the steps of:
3 providing a substantially tubular frame having a handle portion and a
4 primary hitting portion; and
5 inserting the insert into the hitting portion of the frame.

1 44. (withdrawn) The method of manufacturing an insert of claim 43, further
2 comprising the steps of:
3 inserting a bladder into the inside diameter of the insert; and
4 pressurizing the bladder.

1 45. (withdrawn) The method of manufacturing an insert of claim 44, further
2 comprising the steps of heating the insert and the frame.

1 46. (withdrawn) The insert of claim 39 wherein at least one of the first and
2 second layers has its first edge at least partially overlapping its second edge to form a
3 single-layer overlapped seam.

1 Claims 47-55 are canceled.

1 56. (previously presented) A bat comprising:
2 a substantially tubular body extending along a longitudinal axis, the body
3 having a handle portion and a tubular impact portion, the impact portion having an
4 inner peripheral surface, the impact portion being formed of a first material; and
5 at least one sheet having a proximal edge, a distal edge, and first and
6 second side edges, the at least one sheet contacting at least a portion of, and extending
7 around the inner peripheral surface such that the first and second edges each extend
8 from the proximal edge to the distal edge along a path that is substantially non-parallel
9 with the longitudinal axis, the at least one sheet being formed of a second material
10 which is different from the first material, the sheet being configured to be capable of

11 moving independently with respect to the body during use, the second material being
12 selected from the group consisting of a metal, a metal matrix composite material, a
13 fiberglass composite material, a urethane and combinations thereof.

1 57. (currently amended) The bat ~~insert~~ of claim 56 wherein the first edge
2 overlaps the second edge along at least a portion of the path to form an overlapped
3 seam.

1 58. (currently amended) The bat ~~insert~~ of claim 56 wherein the first edge is
2 positioned adjacent to the second edge along at least a portion of the path to form a
3 non-overlapped seam.

1 59. (currently amended) The bat ~~insert~~ of claim 56, wherein the path taken
2 by at least one of the first and second side edges between the proximal edge and the
3 distal edge is selected from the group consisting of helical, sinusoidal, convoluted,
4 jagged, curved, irregular and combinations thereof.

1 60. (currently amended) The bat ~~insert~~ of claim 56, wherein the sheet has
2 greater strength in a peripheral direction than in a longitudinal direction.

1 61. (previously presented) A substantially tubular insert for a bat wherein
2 the insert extends along a longitudinal axis, the insert comprising:
3 a plurality of reinforcing layers, at least one of the layers having a
4 parallelogram shape, each layer forming at least part of a tubular shape and connected
5 to at least one of the other layers, each layer having a proximal edge, a distal edge, and
6 first and second side edges, the first and second edges of each layer extending from the
7 proximal edge to the distal edge along a path that is substantially non-parallel with the
8 longitudinal axis, the layers being formed of a non-wood based material.

1 62. (previously presented) The insert of claim 61 wherein each layer is
2 bonded to at least one other layer, and wherein each layer overlaps at least a portion of
3 the at least one other layer.

1 63. (previously presented) The insert of claim 61, wherein each layer
2 includes a plurality of fibers, and wherein the fibers of each layer are oriented in
3 substantially the same direction.

1 64. (previously presented) The insert of claim 61, wherein the plurality of
2 layers includes at least first and second sets of layers, wherein the fibers of the first set
3 of layers are orientated at between 0 and 89 degrees relative to the longitudinal axis,
4 and wherein the fibers of the second set of layers are orientated at between 90 and 179
5 degrees relative to the longitudinal axis.

1 65. (previously presented) The insert of claim 64 wherein the fibers of the
2 first set of layers are orientated at between 65 and 85 degrees relative to the
3 longitudinal axis, and wherein the fibers of the second set of layers are orientated at
4 between 95 and 115 degrees relative to the longitudinal axis.

1 66. (previously presented) The insert of claim 61, wherein the path taken by
2 at least one of the first and second side edges between the proximal edge and the distal
3 edge is selected from the group consisting of helical, sinusoidal, convoluted, jagged,
4 curved, irregular and combinations thereof.

1 67. (previously presented) The insert of claim 61 wherein the layers are
2 comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a fiber matrix composite,
3 a metal matrix composite, a metal, a carbon matrix composite, a urethane and
4 combinations thereof.

1 68. (previously presented) The insert of claim 61 wherein each layer has a
2 thickness between 0.003 inches and 0.015 inches.

1 69. (previously presented) The insert of claim 61 wherein the majority of
2 the plurality of layers substantially overlap one of the other layers.

1 70. (previously presented) The insert of claim 61 wherein at least one of the
2 plurality of layers has its first edge at least partially overlapping its second edge to
3 form a single-layer overlapped seam.

1 71. (previously presented) The insert of claim 61 wherein at least one of the
2 plurality of layers has its first edge positioned adjacent to its second edge to form a
3 single layer non-overlapped seam.

1 72. (previously presented) The insert of claim 61, wherein at least one of
2 the plurality of layers has a greater strength in a peripheral direction than in a
3 longitudinal direction.